

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated February 5, 2003, the Examiner states that Claims 1 and 2 are pending, Claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 1 and 2 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims and the abstract.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office objects to the abstract for being vague and confusing, and rejects the claims as indefinite. The Applicant has amended the abstract and claims to overcome these objections/rejections.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office rejects Claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over JP63196314 (abstract) "Nishigaito" in view of US 4,594,923 "Fugita". The Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

The method disclosed in Nishigaito relates to cutting a hot-rolled steel bar. The temperature changes in the steel bar are on the magnitude of thousands of degrees centigrade. In contrast, the temperature changes in the synthetic resin sheet in the present application is only tens of degrees centigrade. There is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation disclosed in either Nishigaito or Fugita to apply the claimed method to use with synthetic resin sheets with much lower temperature changes.

Furthermore, the invention disclosed in Fujita relates to a controller for cutting sheet material such as corrugated cardboard, and is applied to a cutting process utilizing a rotary cutter, which is quite different from the cutting process in Nishigaito which does not utilize a rotary cutter. Therefore, it would not have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to combine these two references to arrive at the Applicant's claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 14, 2003  
Date